

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 14, and 22-25 are pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 8, and 14 have been amended, and new independent claims 22-25 have been added by the present amendment. Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-21 have been canceled without prejudice. The amendments and new claims are fully supported by the application as originally filed (see, e.g., specification at page 23, line 1 to page 24, line 9; page 25, lines 11-13; page 34, line 25 to page 35, line 2; page 35, line 7 to page 36, line 10; page 37, line 23 to page 38, line 14; page 43, line 15 to page 44, line 1; page 51, lines 14-21; page 57, line 6 to page 58, line 10; and FIGS. 14, 15, 17, and 25 of the application).

As amended, independent claim 1 recites a method for recording, onto a recording medium, at least first AV data and second AV data "both of which constitute a scene to be reproduced by switching with each other in a same time-line." The claimed method as recited in independent claim 1 includes a first step of dividing the first AV data into first partial AV data and dividing the second AV data into second partial AV data, a second step of recording, onto the recording medium, the first partial AV data and the second partial AV data "by alternately disposing the first partial AV data and the second partial AV data," and a third step of recording, onto the recording medium, **file system management information**, where the file system management information includes: "position information of the first partial AV data arranged in an order of reproducing the first partial AV data, and position information of the second partial AV data arranged in an order of reproducing the second partial AV data."

As a result of the Applicants' claimed invention, the first partial AV data and the second partial AV data can be reproduced in a predetermined order. In particular, while the first AV data and the second AV data are divided respectively into the first partial AV data and the second partial AV data for storage, by recording the **file system management information**, the first AV data and the second AV data can be handled as different files.

Further, as amended, independent claim 1 recites a fifth step of recording, onto the recording medium, "a program information file for associating the first AV data with the second AV data," where the program information file includes a filename of a first AV data management file and a filename of a second AV data management file. Further, the program information file includes a time stamp indicating a start time of the scene, thus allowing for identification of a scene currently being reproduced.

As recited in independent claim 1, the first and second AV data management information files include respective time stamps indicating start times of respective video units. Therefore, it is possible to identify, during reproduction of a scene, which of the video units constituting the scene are being reproduced from the time stamps of the "first AV data management information file" or the "second AV data management information file."

Independent claims 8, 14, and 22-25 include similar limitations.

For example, according to the Applicants' claimed invention, when a scene is being reproduced from first AV data, it is possible to identify the time stamp of the video unit of the scene, and to switch the video unit with a video unit of second AV data for reproduction. Therefore, the claimed "program information file" and first and second AV data management information files allow associating first AV data with second AV data so that the first and second AV data are handled "as a single content," as claimed.

Claims 1-11, 14-19, and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0103766 to Sugahara et al. ("Sugahara") in view of U.S. Patent 5,884,004 to Sato et al. ("Sato"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 1 (and the other independent claims 8, 14, and 22-25) over the proposed combination of Sugahara in view of Sato, the proposed combination does not teach or suggest a method for recording, onto a recording medium, at least first AV data and second AV data "both of which constitute a scene to be reproduced by

switching with each other in a same time-line," a first step of dividing the first AV data into first partial AV data and dividing the second AV data into second partial AV data, a second step of recording, onto the recording medium, the first partial AV data and the second partial AV data "by alternately disposing the first partial AV data and the second partial AV data," and a third step of recording, onto the recording medium, **file system management information**, where the file system management information includes: "position information of the first partial AV data arranged in an order of reproducing the first partial AV data, and position information of the second partial AV data arranged in an order of reproducing the second partial AV data." Further, there is no teaching or suggestion in the proposed combination of at least the claimed "program information file," and first and second AV data management information files which allow associating first AV data with second AV data so that the first and second AV data are handled "as a single content," as claimed.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 25, 2009

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